

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling elevator car travel, comprising:  
grouping floors (~~2-17~~)-into preliminary, contiguous sectors; and  
rearranging the preliminary sectors into a plurality of sectors (~~S<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>4</sub>~~)-where at least one of the sectors includes at least one floor that is not contiguous with at least one other floor in the one sector.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including assigning at least one elevator car (~~22-30~~) to each sector.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, including grouping some of the floors into at least two sectors contiguous with each other, the two sectors having every floor contiguous with another floor in the sector, respectively.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, including changing at least one floor from at least one preliminary sector with at least one floor from another preliminary sector.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein there are N changes, where N is a smallest integer greater than or equal to  $(1/2)$  (the average number of floors per sector).
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, including grouping floors so that each sector has at least one floor contiguous with a floor from another sector and a remaining number of floors contiguous with each other.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein there are S sectors and F floors per sector and grouping the floors sequentially into sectors such that each sector has a highest unassigned (F-1) floors and the (S-m)<sup>th</sup> floor, where m is the number of established sectors.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including grouping the floors ~~into k~~ into K preliminary, contiguous sectors and then rearranging each preliminary sector ~~into m~~ into M non-contiguous sectors, ~~where k~~ where K is greater than or equal to 2 and m and M is greater than or equal to 2.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein there are C cars and~~ including grouping the floors into ~~S~~ preliminary sectors where ~~S=C/k~~ K preliminary sectors and then rearranging each preliminary sector ~~into k~~ into K sectors having ~~every k<sup>th</sup>~~ every K<sup>th</sup> floor in each sector, ~~where k~~ where K is an integer greater than or equal to 2.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 11, wherein k=2~~ claim 8, wherein K=2 and a first sector has alternating floors with another sector.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the sectors has at least one floor that is not contiguous with at least one other floor in the sector.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including using at least two of:
- changing at least one floor from at least one preliminary sector with at least one floor from another preliminary sector;
  - grouping floors so that each sector has at least one floor contiguous with a floor from another sector and a remaining number of floors contiguous with each other;
  - grouping the floors sequentially into sectors such that each sector has a highest unassigned  $(F-1)$  floors and the  $(S-m)^{\text{th}}$  floor, where there are  $S$  sectors,  $F$  floors per sector and  $m$  is the number of established sectors;
  - grouping the floors ~~into  $k$~~  into  $K$  preliminary, contiguous sectors and then rearranging each preliminary sector into  $m$  non-contiguous sectors, ~~where  $k$~~  where  $K$  is greater than or equal to 2 and  $m$  is greater than or equal to 2; and
  - grouping the floors into  ~~$S$  preliminary sectors where  $S=C/k$~~   $K$  preliminary sectors and then rearranging each preliminary sector into  ~~$k$  sectors having every  $k^{\text{th}}$~~   $K$  sectors having every  $K^{\text{th}}$  floor in each sector, where ~~there are  $C$  cars and  $k$~~   $K$  is an integer greater than or equal to 2.

13. (Currently Amended) An elevator system, comprising:
- a plurality of elevator cars ~~(22-30)~~, each capable of serving a plurality of floors;
- and
- a controller ~~(42)~~ that groups the floors into preliminary, contiguous sectors and then rearranges the preliminary sectors into sectors  ~~$(S_1-S_4)$~~  with at least one sector having at least one floor that is not contiguous with at least one other floor in the one sector.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the controller ~~(42)~~ changes at least one floor from one preliminary sector with at least one floor from another preliminary sector.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein there are  $N$  changes, where  $N$  is a smallest integer greater than or equal to  $(1/2)$  (the average number of floors per sector).

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein there are S sectors, F floors per sector and the controller (42) sequentially groups the floors into sectors in an order where a current grouping of floors includes the highest unassigned (F-1) floors and the (S-m)<sup>th</sup> floor, where m is the number of established sectors.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the controller (42) groups the floors into K preliminary, contiguous sectors and then rearranges each preliminary sector into M non-contiguous sectors, where K is greater than or equal to 2 and M is greater than or equal to 2.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein there are C cars (22-30) and the controller (42) groups the floors into ~~F preliminary sectors where  $S = C/K$~~  K preliminary sectors, the controller then rearranges each preliminary sector into K sectors having every K<sup>th</sup> floor in each sector, where K is greater than or equal to 2.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the controller (42) groups the floors so that at least two of the sectors are contiguous with each other and the two contiguous sectors have every floor contiguous with another floor in each of the two sectors, respectively.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling elevator car travel, comprising  
sequentially establishing a plurality of sectors by:

grouping floors sequentially into sectors into each of the sectors, sequentially, such that each sector has a highest unassigned (F-1) floors and the (S-m)<sup>th</sup> floor, where there are S total sectors, F floors per sector and m is the number of established sectors established prior to the sector into which floors are being grouped.